ELL Reader

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Fiction	• Surprises • Personal Treasures • Family Traditions	• Labels in Pictures • Repetition	• Color Words

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The Surprise Box

by Francis Robin



Illustrated by Toni Goffe

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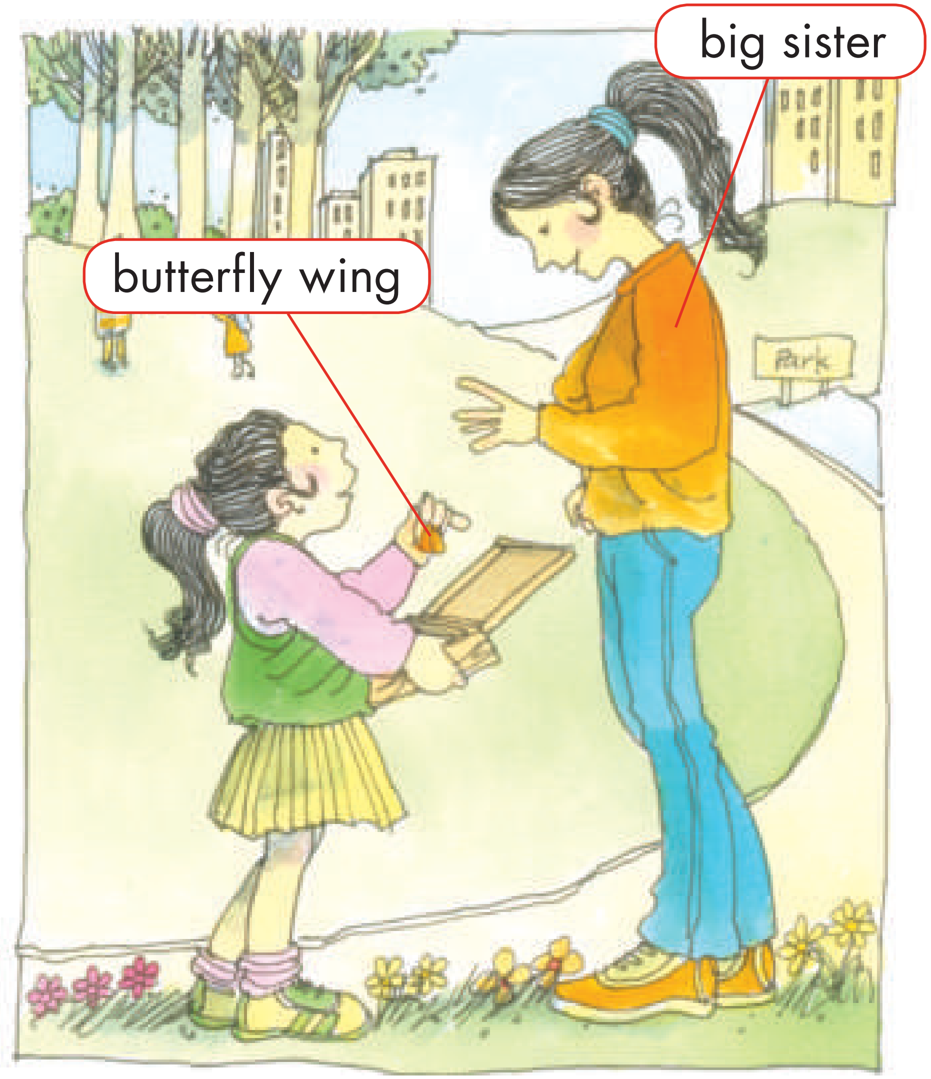
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Marta loves her big sister Rosa.
Rosa calls her "Martita."
That means "little Marta."



One day, the girls are walking.
Marta finds a butterfly wing.
The butterfly wing makes her happy.
She puts it in her special box.



Rosa puts a blue ribbon in Marta's hair.
The ribbon makes Marta happy.
Marta puts the ribbon in the box.



Rosa helps Marta with her homework.
The teacher gives Marta a star.
Marta puts the star in her special box.





Marta loves the butterfly wing.
She loves the ribbon and the star.
She loves her big sister.
Marta thinks of a surprise for Rosa.

Marta wraps the box in colored paper.
She gives it to Rosa.
"I made you a surprise box!"
says Marta.
"You are a good big sister."



Rosa opens the box.
She sees the butterfly wing.
She sees the ribbon and the star.
"You are a good little sister," says Rosa.
"The surprise box makes me happy!"

Talk About It

1. Why do you think Marta gives her special things to Rosa?
2. Do you think Marta will gather any new special things?

Write About It

3. What surprise would you want to give to someone you know? On a separate sheet of paper, draw a picture and write about it.

Extend Language

Marta's special ribbon was blue. *Blue* is a color word. Her special star has a gold color. What other color words can you use for things in the story?

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